(d) the progress made so far under the Railway Projects started during the Eighth Five Year Plan in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh Government have suggested schemes for strengthening of the existing rail infrastructure in the twin cities of Hyderabad|Secunderabad and its electrification to facilitate intorduction of EMU train for intracity commuters.

(c) Pushpull trains have been introduced in the suburban corridors of Secunderabad-Bhongir and Bolarum-Secunderabad-Faluknuma section to improve the suburban services.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Separate allocations for suburban railway services

4636. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written to the Planning Commission to make separate allocations for suburban railway service:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Railways have made a reference to the Planning Commission on the subject sending them the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Railways as contained in the Tenth Report of the Committee alongwith the views of the Ministry as given to the Committee.

(c) Does not arise.

Derailment of Vanchinad Express

4637. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a derailment of Vanchinad Express on the 2nd March, 1995;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the derailment;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured therein;

(d) the details of compensations paid to the victims; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) On 1.3.95 at about 21.03 hrs., train engine and 4 coaches of train No. 6304 Up Trivandrum-Ernakulam Vanchinad Express derailed between Tripunnitura and Ernakulam Jn. stations of Trivandrum division of Southern Railway.

(b) The reasons will be known after Enquiry Committee submits its report

(c) None was either injured or killed.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The following are some of the safety measures taken to check accidents, including derailments:—

(i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 year's active driving service have been specially screened and deficient drivers given out-of-course crash training.

(ii) 40,000 station staff have also been subjected to an out-of-course screening and deficient staff were imparted non-scheduled safety training.

(iii) Regular counselling of staff is done to prevent accidents.

(iv) Stringent action to the extent of 'dismissal' or 'removal' from service is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.

(v) The elimination of collisions has been made as one of the mission areas for the General Managers of the Railways.

(vi) Nearly 60,000 of staff attended Safety Camps and refresher training courses during the last one year

Increase in the time limit of advance reservation

4638. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to change the time limit for advance rail reservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) It has been decided to reduce the advance reservation period from 45 days to 30 days in respect of journeys commencing from 1.7.1995 onwards

Compensation to the bomb blast victims in Brahmaputra Mail

4639. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of bomb explosion occurred in Brahmaputra Mail recently;

(b) if so, the estimated loss suffered by the Railways due to the explosion; and

(c) the details of financial and other assistance given to the victims of the incident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated loss suffered by the Railways due to the explosion is Rs 9.21.000|- approx.

(c) Ex-gratia payment has been given to the victims of the incident. The details are as under:—

(i) Rs 2,250|- to the nine injured persons @ Rs. 250|- each.

(ii) Rs. 11.000|- to the eleven seriously injured persons @ Rs. 1,000|- each.

(iii) Rs. 25,000/- to the kith and kin of the five deceased persons @Rs. 5,000/- each.

The victims will also be paid the compensation, quantum of which will be decided by Railway Claims Tribunal

Development of Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh

4640. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations which have been identified by Government in Andhra Pradesh for expansion and redevelopment programme; and